

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5810

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide grants for school-based mentoring programs for at risk teenage girls to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy, and to provide student loan forgiveness for mentors participating in such programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide grants for school-based mentoring programs for at risk teenage girls to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy, and to provide student loan forgiveness for mentors participating in such programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mentor-Mentee Teen
5 Pregnancy Reduction Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The U.S. has the highest teenage pregnancy
4 rate of any fully industrialized country.

5 (2) One in three girls in the U.S. becomes preg-
6 nant at least once by the age of 20.

7 (3) Girls who become pregnant are more likely
8 to drop out of high school, less likely to complete
9 college, more likely to give birth to low-birth weight
10 babies, and more likely to live in poverty.

11 (4) The children born to teenage mothers are
12 more likely to have learning disabilities, less likely to
13 complete high school, and more likely to live in pov-
14 erty.

15 (5) Girls born to teenage mothers are more
16 likely to become teenager mothers themselves; boys
17 born to teenage mothers are more likely to end up
18 in prison.

19 (6) Innovative initiatives, such as increasing pa-
20 rental involvement and portraying the consequences
21 of teenage pregnancy through the media, exist that
22 can reduce the rates of teenage pregnancy and give
23 every young person a better hope for the future.

24 (7) Research shows that a wide variety of pro-
25 grams have been successful at delaying sexual activ-
26 ity and reducing teenage pregnancy, including ef-

7 Title V of the Social Security Act is amended—

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

15 “SEC. 511. (a) From the amount appropriated in sec-
16 tion 510(d) for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
17 2009) which is not allotted to a State under section 510,
18 the Secretary shall award competitive grants for the cre-
19 ation of school-based programs that provide mentoring to
20 at-risk teenage girls to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy.
21 In awarding such grants for a fiscal year, the Secretary
22 shall give priority to programs in States that have elected
23 not to receive an allotment under section 510 for the fiscal
24 year.

25 “(b)(1) No grant may be awarded under this section
26 except to an entity that is a local educational agency (as

1 defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary
2 Education Act of 1965) or a community-based organiza-
3 tion.

4 “(2) Funds provided under such a grant may only
5 be used in a school-based setting for the following pur-
6 poses:

7 “(A) To recruit, train, and support mentors.

8 “(B) To hire mentoring coordinators and pro-
9 vide professional development.

10 “(C) To pay for outreach materials.

11 “(D) To provide activities that will help in the
12 development of a mentee, such as—

13 “(i) workshops, classes, and after-school
14 activities, which may include family life and sex
15 education and may provide—

16 “(I) information that stresses the im-
17 portance of abstinence and postponing sex-
18 ual involvement;

19 “(II) medically accurate information
20 on the importance of contraception for
21 those who are sexually active, on condom
22 use, and on HIV and sexually transmitted
23 diseases; and

24 “(III) information that reflects mores
25 and values of the community involved.

1 “(ii) preparation for standardized examina-
2 tions;

3 “(iii) assistance with college entrance;

4 “(iv) education in financial literacy;

5 “(v) tutoring;

6 “(vi) sports;

7 “(vii) education in health and nutrition;

8 and

9 “(viii) education in the arts.

10 “(3) No grant may be awarded under this section un-
11 less the grantee agrees that, in carrying out the purposes
12 described in paragraph (2), the grantee will, whenever pos-
13 sible, use strategies relating to family life and sex edu-
14 cation that have been demonstrated to be effective, or that
15 incorporate characteristics of effective programs.

16 “(4) No grant may be awarded under this section un-
17 less the grantee agrees that only qualified individuals will
18 serve as mentors under this section. For the purposes of
19 this paragraph, a ‘qualified individual’ is an individual
20 who—

21 “(A) is a woman who has received at least a
22 baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
23 education (as such term is defined in section 102(a)
24 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
25 1002(a)));

1 “(B) is mentoring no more than two mentees
2 under this section; and

3 “(C) has been trained and screened by a local
4 educational agency or community-based organization
5 to do the following for individual mentees:

6 “(i) To encourage setting goals and plan-
7 ning for the future.

8 “(ii) To promote responsible behavior and
9 help delay sexual activity.

10 “(iii) To provide general guidance.

11 “(iv) To increase participation in school.

12 “(5) No grant shall be made under this section unless
13 the grantee agrees to submit to the Secretary, in accord-
14 ance with the criteria of the Secretary, a report that pro-
15 vides information on the program conducted under this
16 section, including outcomes and increased education and
17 awareness about the prevention of teen pregnancy under
18 the grant. The Secretary shall make such reports available
19 to the public.

20 “(6) Grantees under this section shall expend funds
21 received under the grant not later than 18 months after
22 the date such funds are provided under the grant.

23 “(c)(1) Paragraph (3) of section 502(a) shall apply
24 to grants under this section in the same manner as it ap-
25 plies to funding made available under section 502(b).

1 “(2) Sections 507 and 508 shall apply to grants
 2 under this section to the same extent and in the same
 3 manner as such sections apply to allotments under section
 4 502(c).

5 “(3) Section 506 shall apply to grants under this sec-
 6 tion to the extent determined by the Secretary to be appro-
 7 priate.

8 “(d) The Secretary shall, directly or through con-
 9 tract, provide for evaluations of programs receiving funds
 10 under grants under this section. Such an evaluation shall
 11 cover at least 6 programs and programs representing at
 12 least 10 percent of the funding provided under this sec-
 13 tion. Each such evaluation for a program shall describe—

14 “(1) the activities carried out under the grant; and

15 “(2) the extent to which such activities were effective
 16 in changing attitudes and behavior to achieve the project
 17 strategies consistent with this section.”.

18 **SEC. 4. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR MENTORS WHO PARTICI-**
 19 **PATE IN TEEN PREGNANCY REDUCTION PRO-**
 20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
 22 Health and Human Services is authorized, from the funds
 23 appropriated under subsection (g), to carry out a program
 24 to assume the obligation to repay a qualified loan amount
 25 (as determined under subsection (b)) for a Federal stu-

1 dent loan, in accordance with this section, for an indi-
2 vidual who—

3 (1) is a qualified individual to serve as a men-
4 tor under subsection (b)(4) of section 511 of the So-
5 cial Security Act;

6 (2) has served as a mentor for the teen preg-
7 nancy reduction grant program authorized under
8 section 511 of the Social Security Act for not less
9 than 200 hours in an academic year or its equivalent
10 (as determined by the Secretary); and

11 (3) is not in default on a loan for which the in-
12 dividual seeks forgiveness.

13 (b) QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNT.—The amount of loan
14 forgiveness the Secretary provides under this section—

15 (1) shall be equal to \$2,000 for every 200 hours
16 of service an individual serves as a mentor under
17 section 511 of the Social Security Act in an aca-
18 demic year or its equivalent (as determined by the
19 Secretary), after the date of the enactment of this
20 section; and

21 (2) may not exceed a total of \$20,000 for an
22 individual.

23 (c) PRIORITY.—In providing loan forgiveness under
24 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to individuals
25 who serve as mentors for programs under section 511 of

1 the Social Security Act that are carried out by local edu-
2 cational agencies or community-based organizations that
3 are located in areas with the highest rates of teen preg-
4 nancy, as determined by the Secretary.

5 (d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
6 construed to authorize the refunding of any repayment of
7 a loan.

8 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary is authorized to
9 issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out
10 the provisions of this section.

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 subparagraph (B), the term “Federal student
15 loan” means any loan made, insured, or guar-
16 anteed under part B, D, or E of title IV of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965.

18 (B) TREATMENT OF CONSOLIDATION
19 LOANS.—A loan amount for a loan made under
20 section 428C or section 455(g) shall be consid-
21 ered a Federal student loan under this para-
22 graph only to the extent that such loan amount
23 was used to repay a loan made under section
24 428 or 428H, a Federal Direct Stafford Loan,
25 or a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford

1 Loan for an individual who meets the require-
2 ments of subsection (a), as determined in ac-
3 cordance with regulations prescribed by the
4 Secretary.

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

7 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and
10 each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

○